James Weeks

Capricho

Violin
2003

Capricho

for violin

To Sophie Appleton

Duration
8 minutes

Performance note
In Tempo I, all unstemmed noteheads (𝅗𝅥 and ◊) should be counted as demisemiquavers.

◊ = half-harmonic note, played *sul pont.* with light LH finger pressure, virtually toneless.

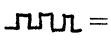
s.p. = *sul pont.*, cancelled by *nat[urale].*

s.p. = move from *naturale* to *sul pont.*

etc. = toneless bowing on the bridge.

= LH muting the strings

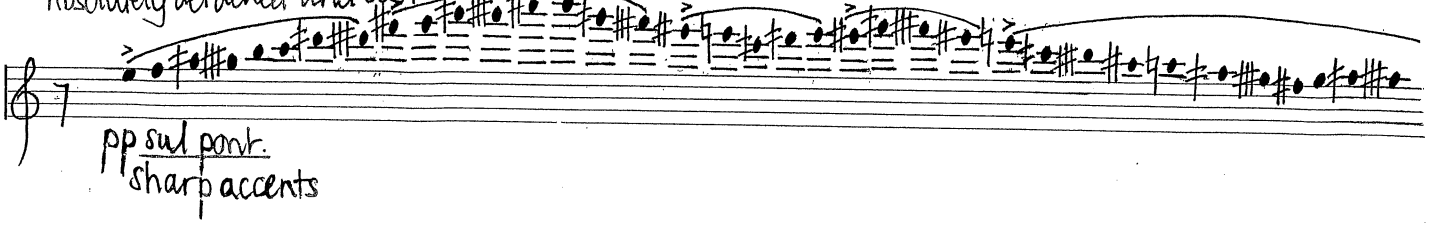
= heavy bow pressure, *naturale,* but not extremely grating

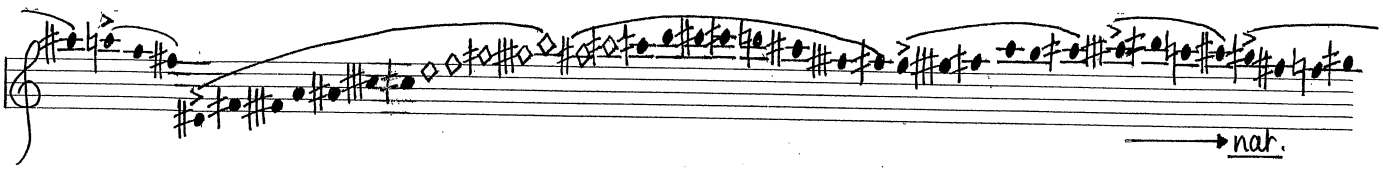
 = extremely heavy bow pressure, producing no (or very little) pitch and a very harsh grating sound.

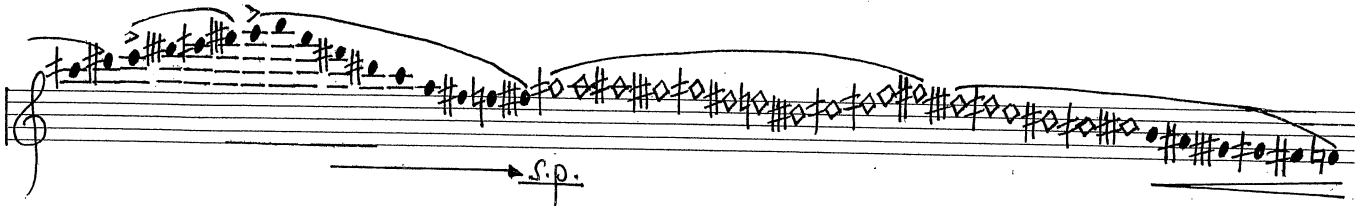
Quartertones: = ¼ sharp, = ¾ sharp, = ¼ flat, = ¾ flat.

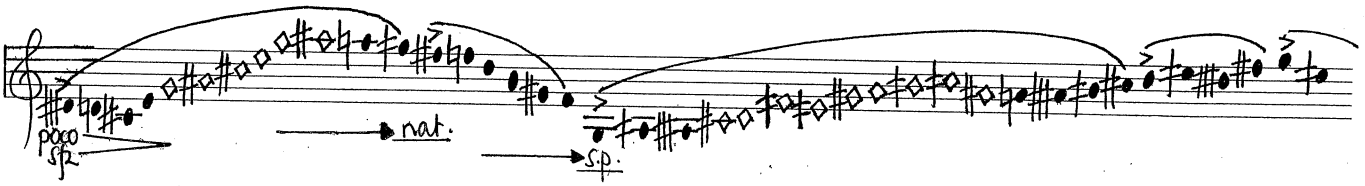
Programme note
Capricho takes its title both from Paganini's celebrated exploration of virtuosity and from Goya's moralistic etchings, in which human caprice, or folly, is revealed in all its bestial unreason in a series of nightmarish satirical visions. In this work, Paganini's hyper-virtuosic violin style is stripped of its straightforward aspect of display, beginning hollowed-out and expressively detached and later becoming frenzied and out-of-control. This music is continually interrupted by a second type of material in which fleeting fragments of melody appear briefly out of a background of suffocating silence.

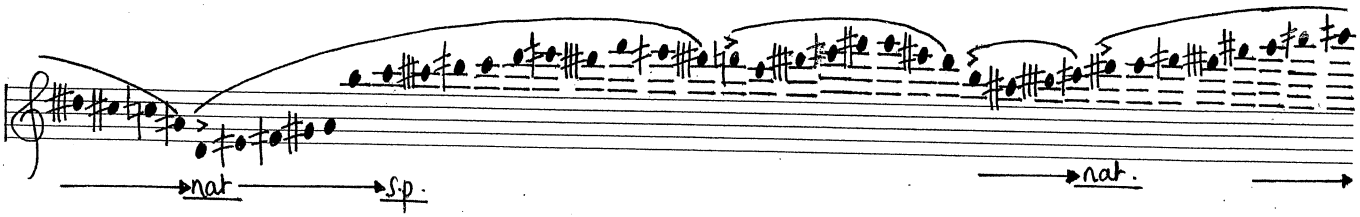
T°I: as fast as possible (♩= 96+)
Absolutely detached and cool

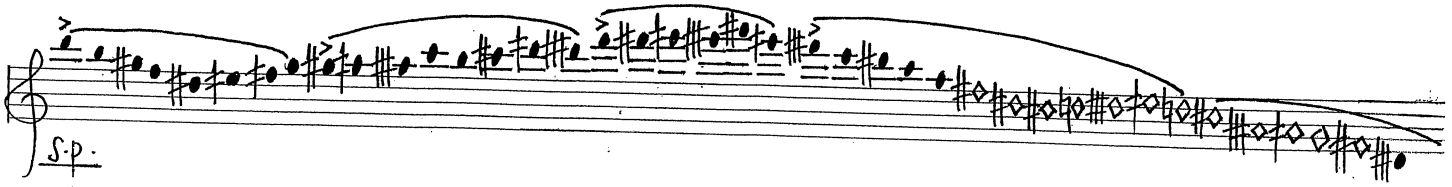


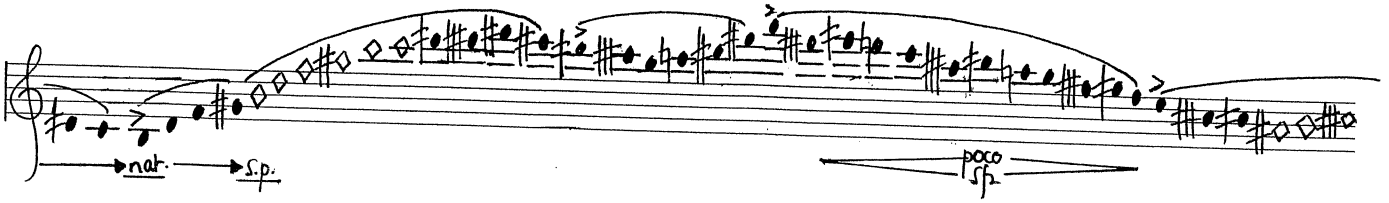


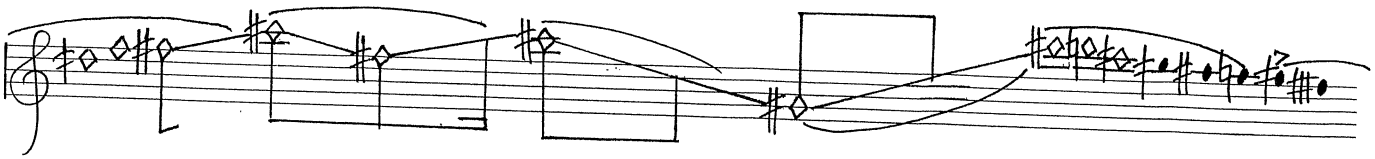








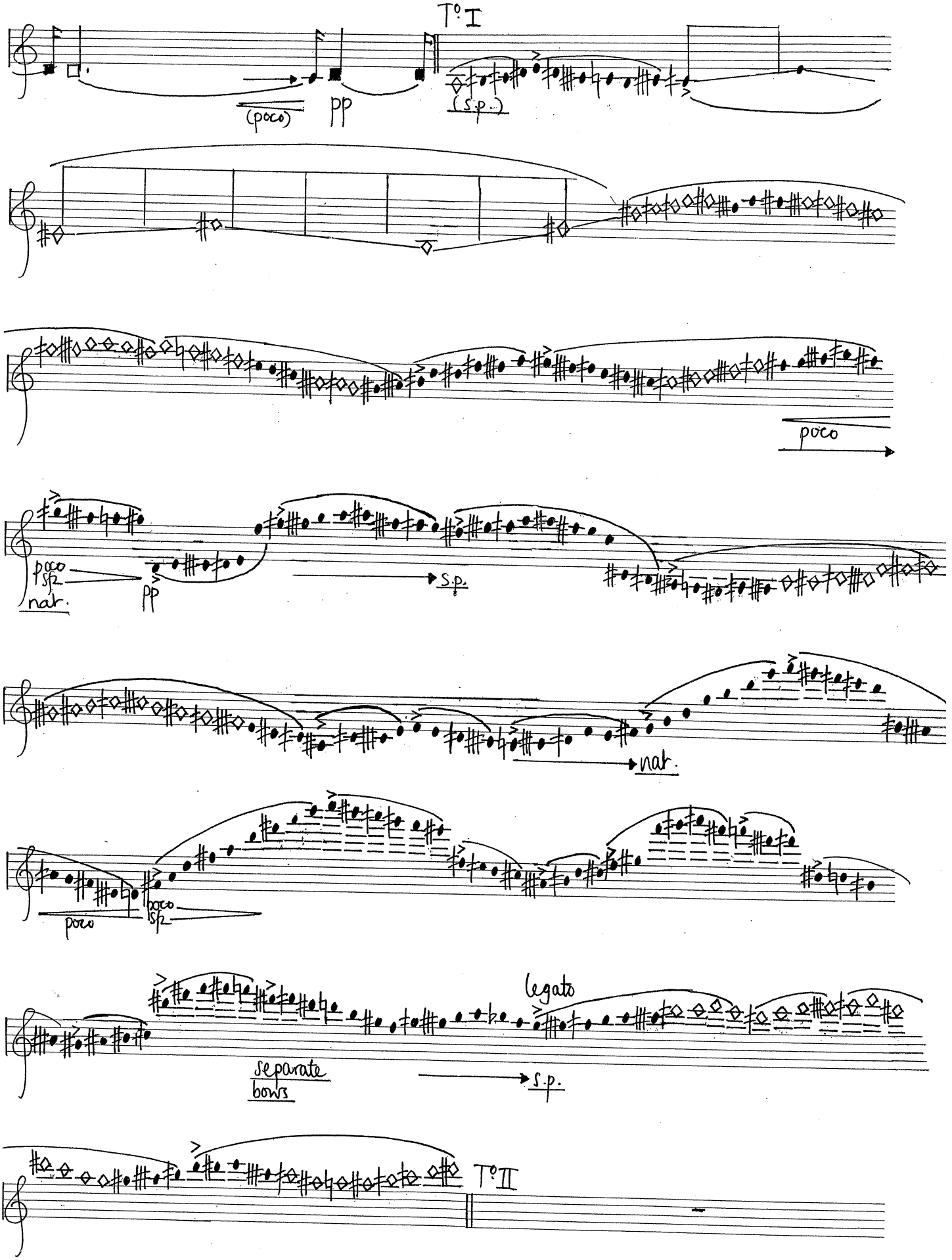




T°II: ♩=72

(pp) flautando molto (quasi harmonic)

legato pp


T° I
(poco)
pp
(s.p.)
poco
poco
s.p.
nar.
pp
nar.
poco
s.p.
poco
nar.
legato
separate
bows
s.p.
T° II

T° I

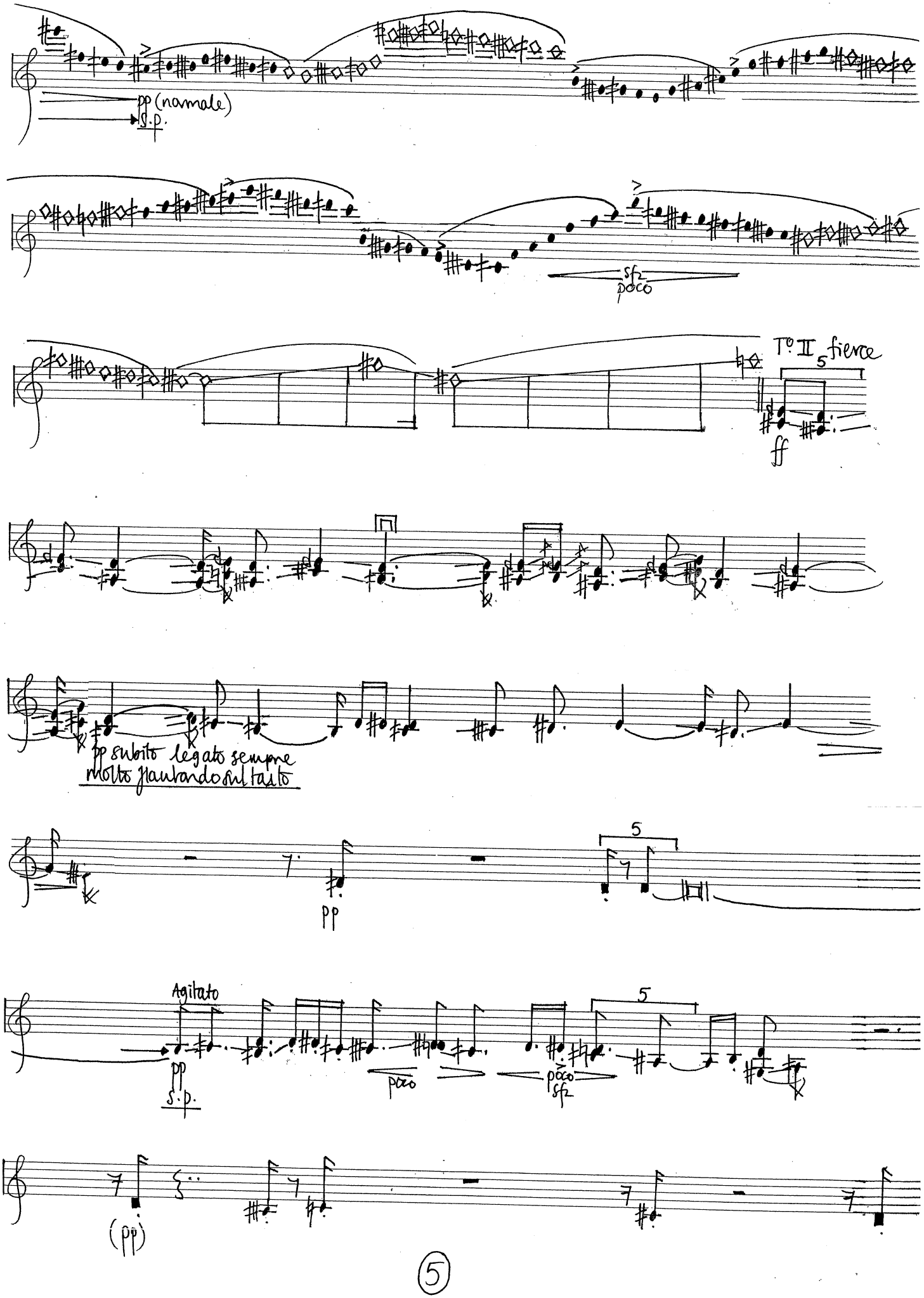
poco sfz

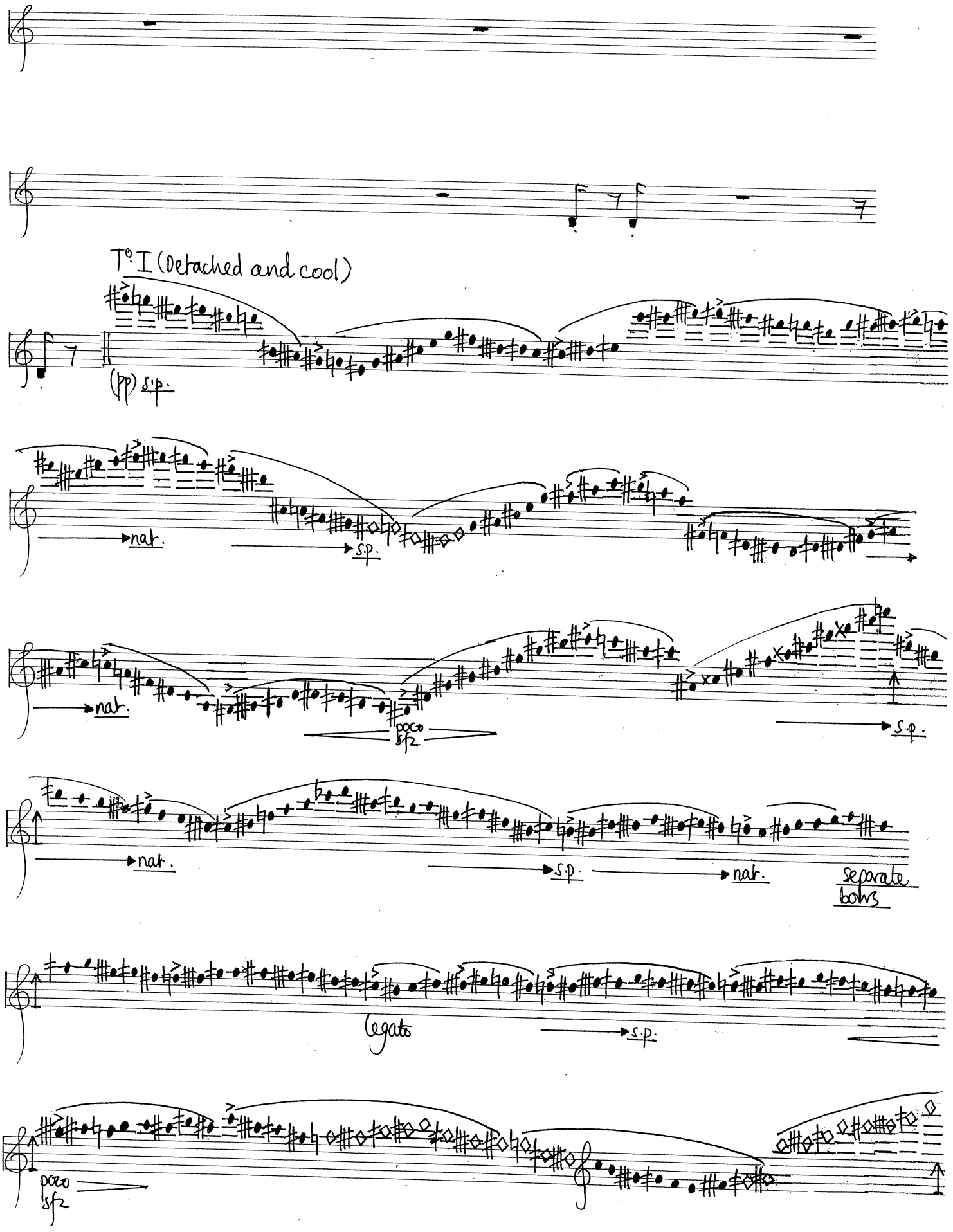
poco sfz

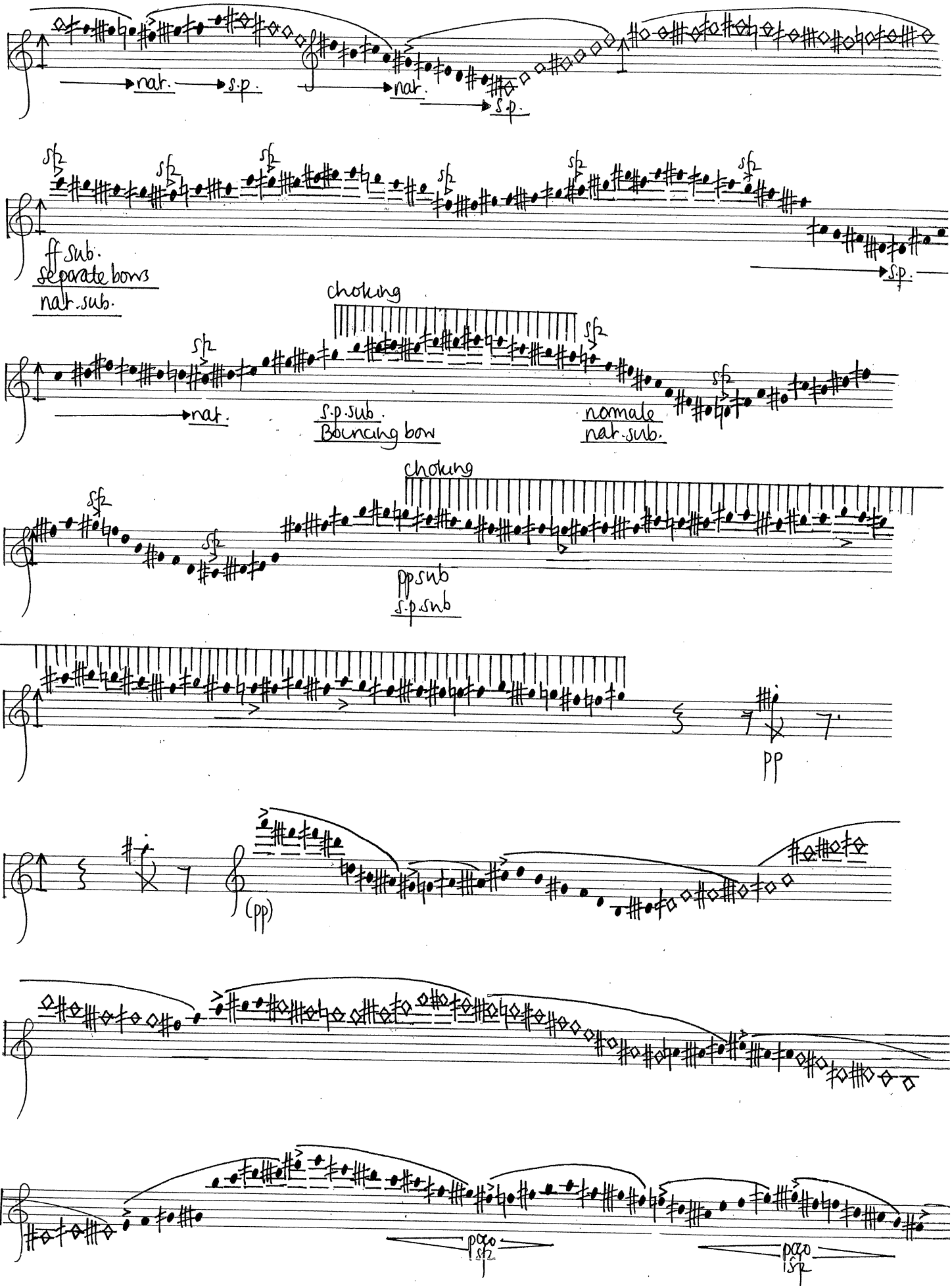
ff sub. separate bows nat. sub.

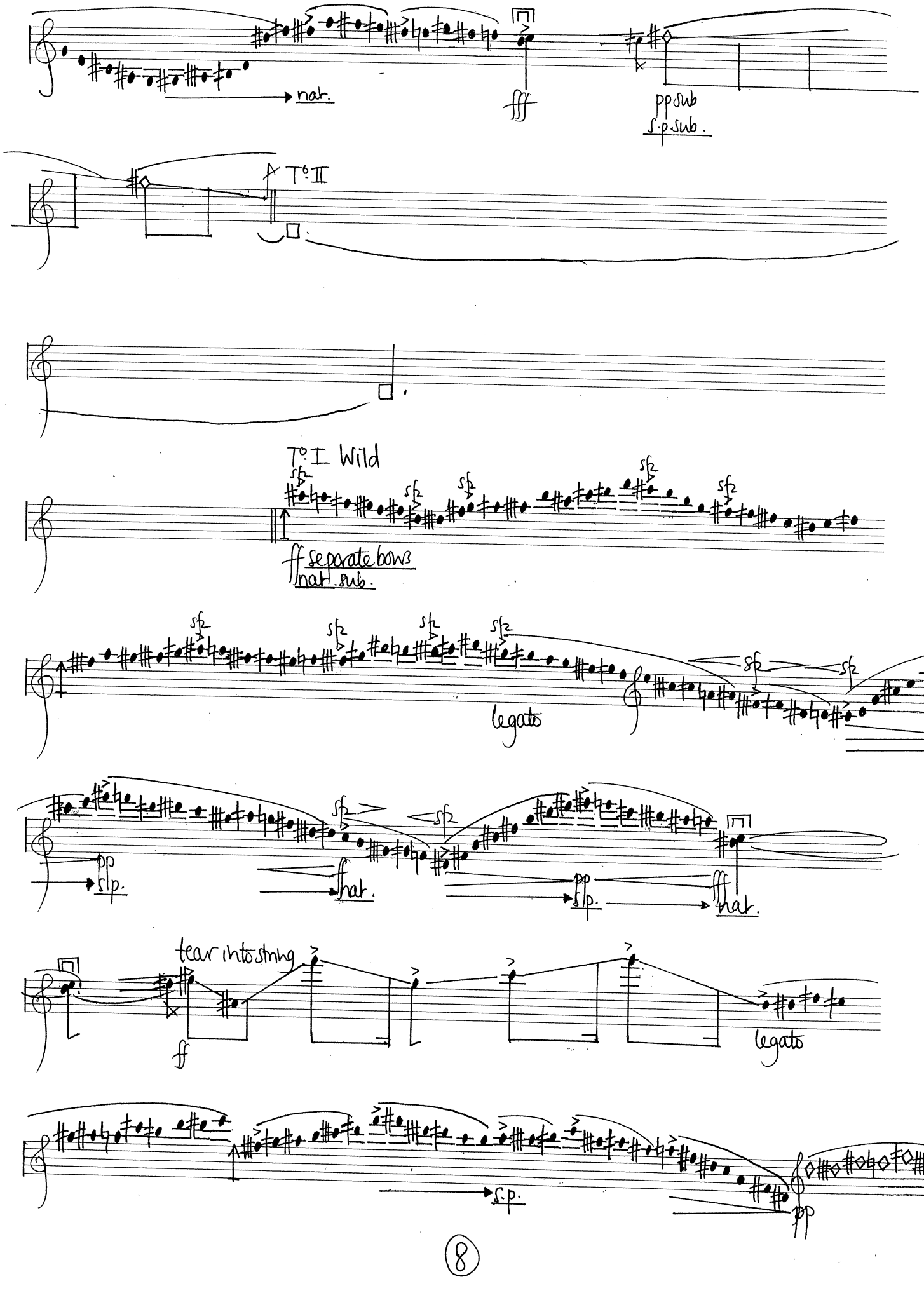
Brillante e leggiero sub.

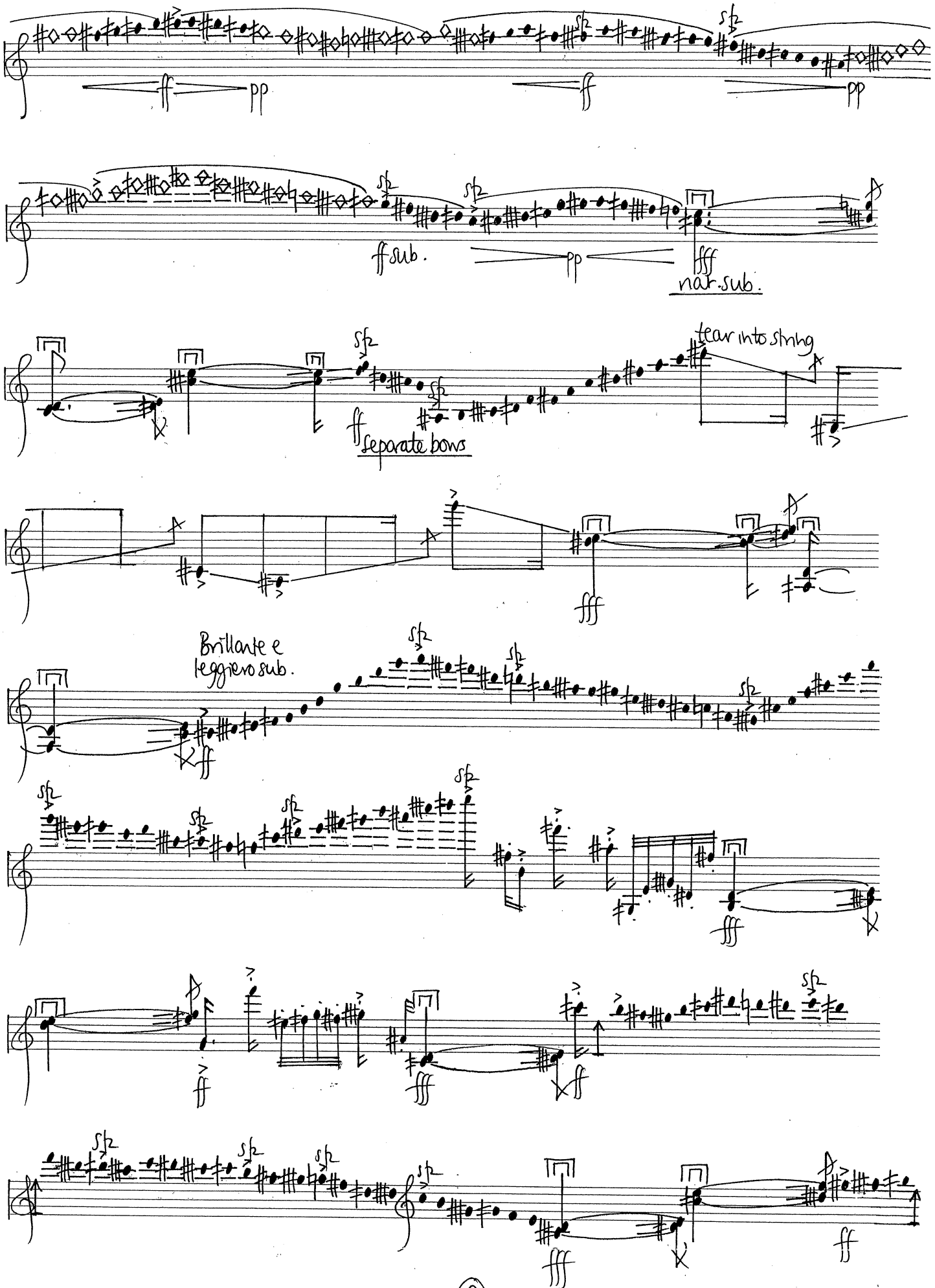
ff legato

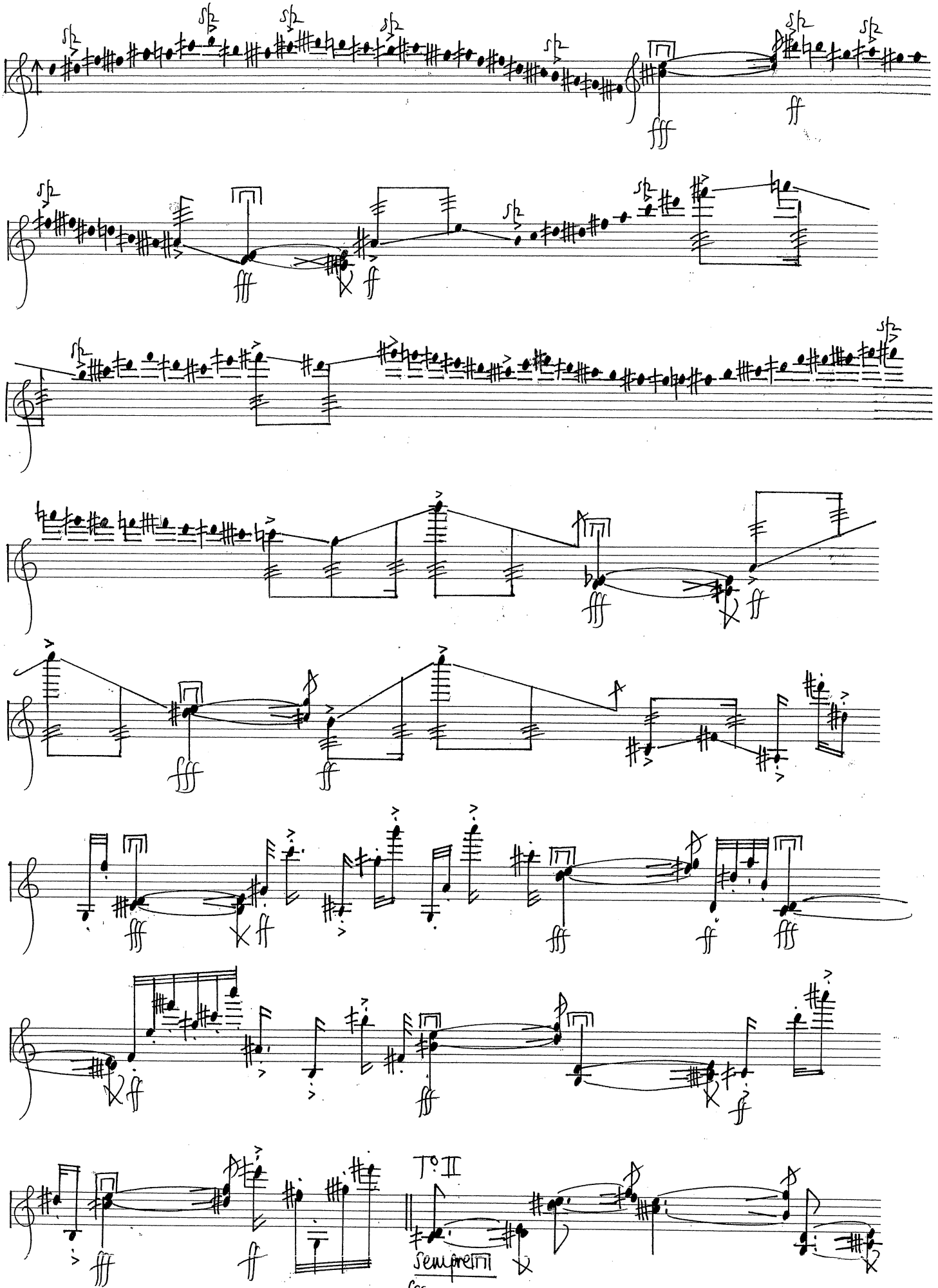

pp (normale)
S.p.
sfz
poco
T.o II
5
fierce
ff
pp subito legato sempre
molto flautando sul tasto
5
pp
Agitato
pp
S.p.
poco
poco
sfz
5
(pp)

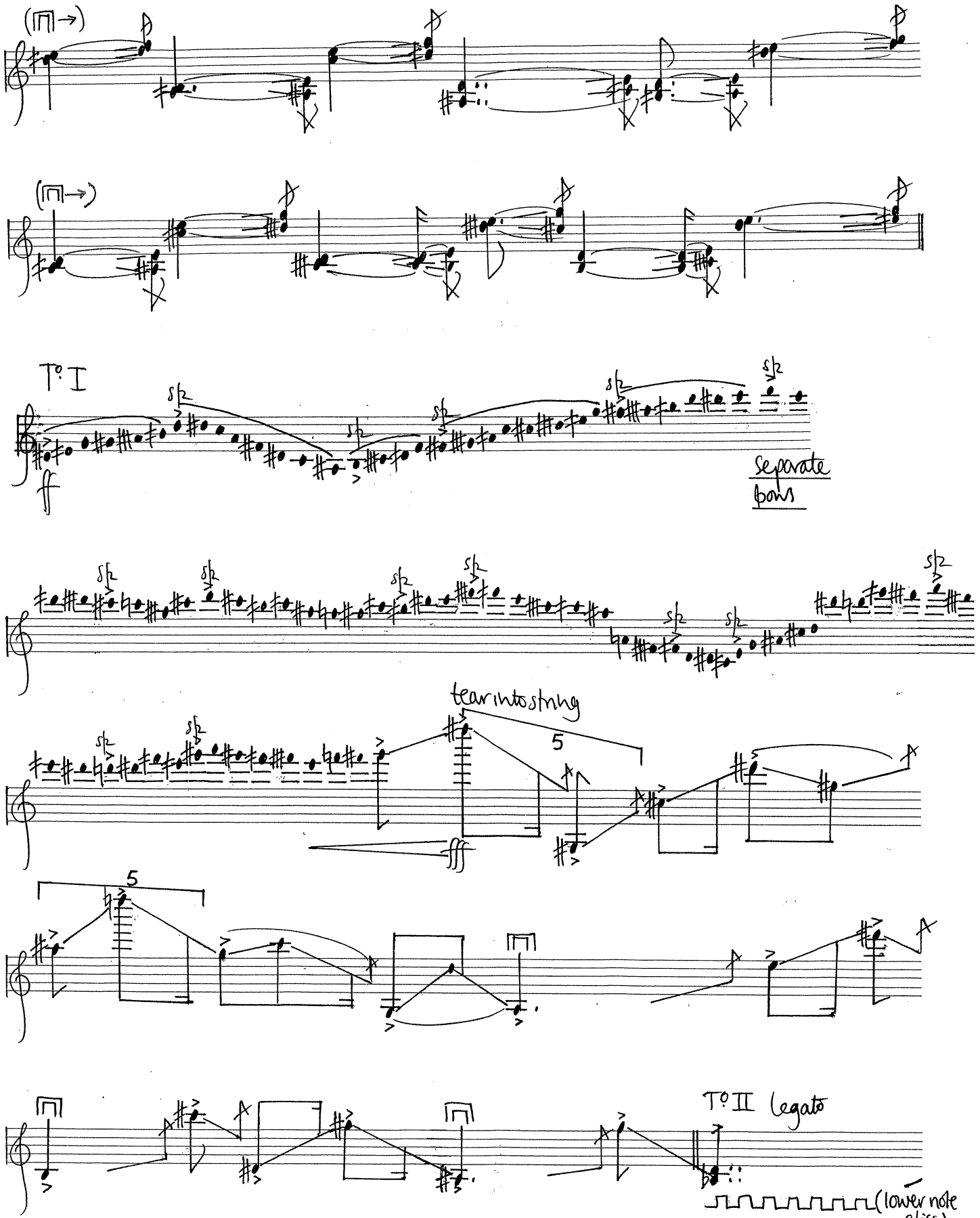

To I (Detached and cool)
(pp) s.p.
nat.
s.p.
nat.
poco sfz
s.p.
nat.
s.p.
nat.
separate bows
legato
s.p.
poco sfz

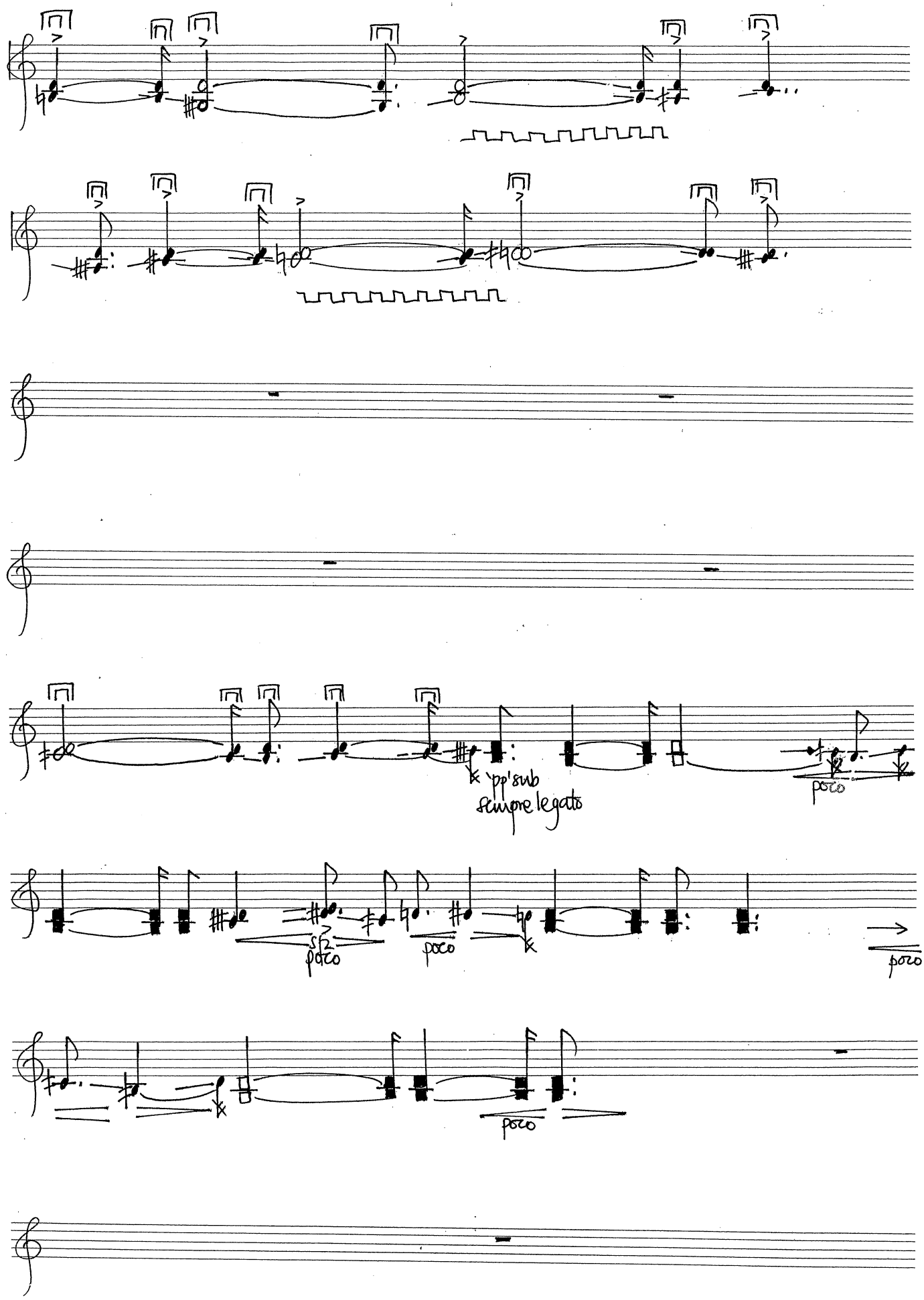

nat.
s.p.
nat.
s.p.
sfz
ff sub.
separate bows
nat. sub.
s.p.
choking
sfz
nat.
s.p. sub.
Bouncing bow
sfz
nomale
nat. sub.
choking
sfz
sfz
pp sub
s.p. sub
PP
(pp)
poco
sfz
poco
sfz

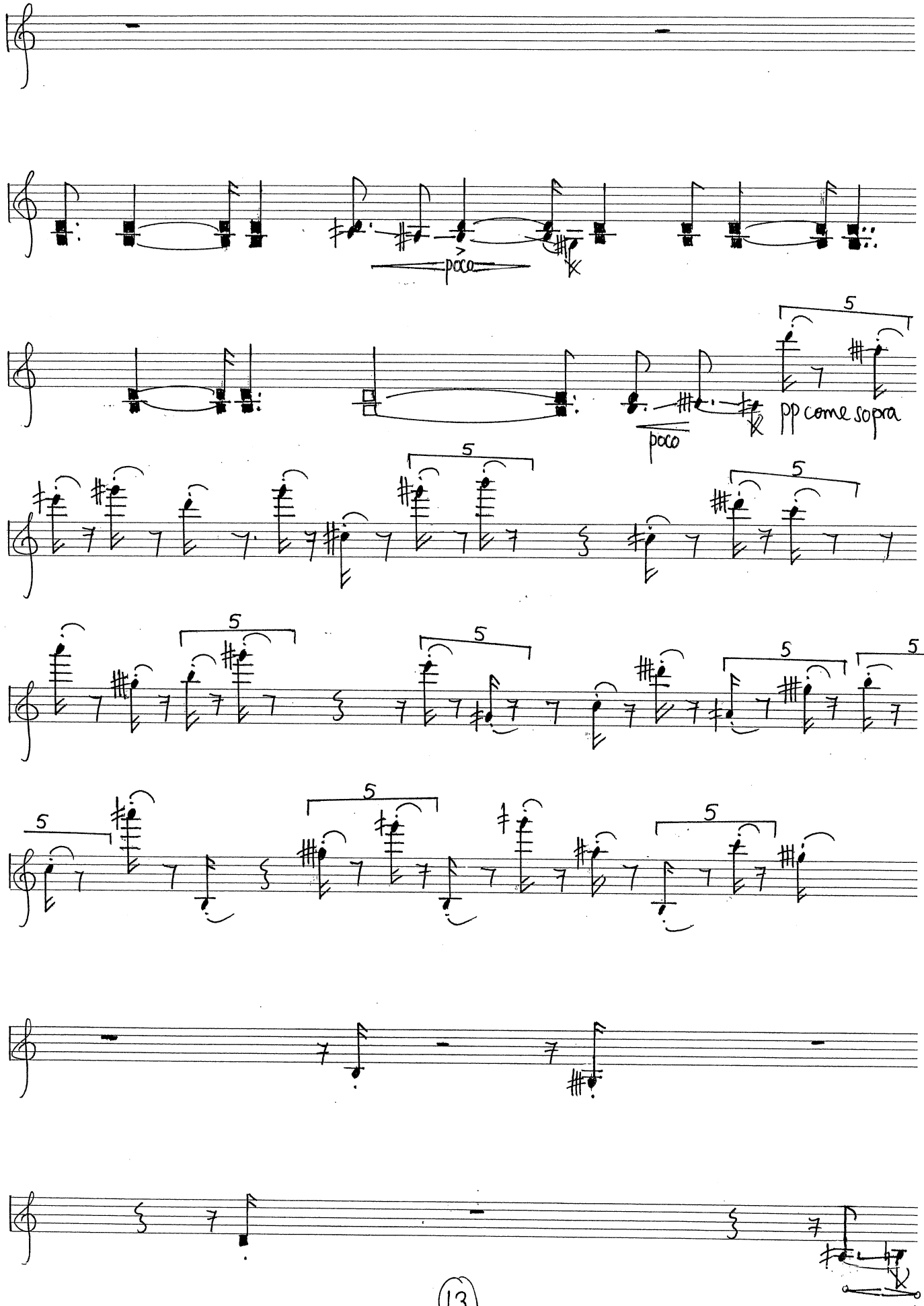

nat.
fff
pp sub
s.p sub.
T° II
T° I Wild
sfz
ff separate bows
nat. sub.
legato
pp
s.p.
f nat.
tear into string
ff
legato
s.p.
pp

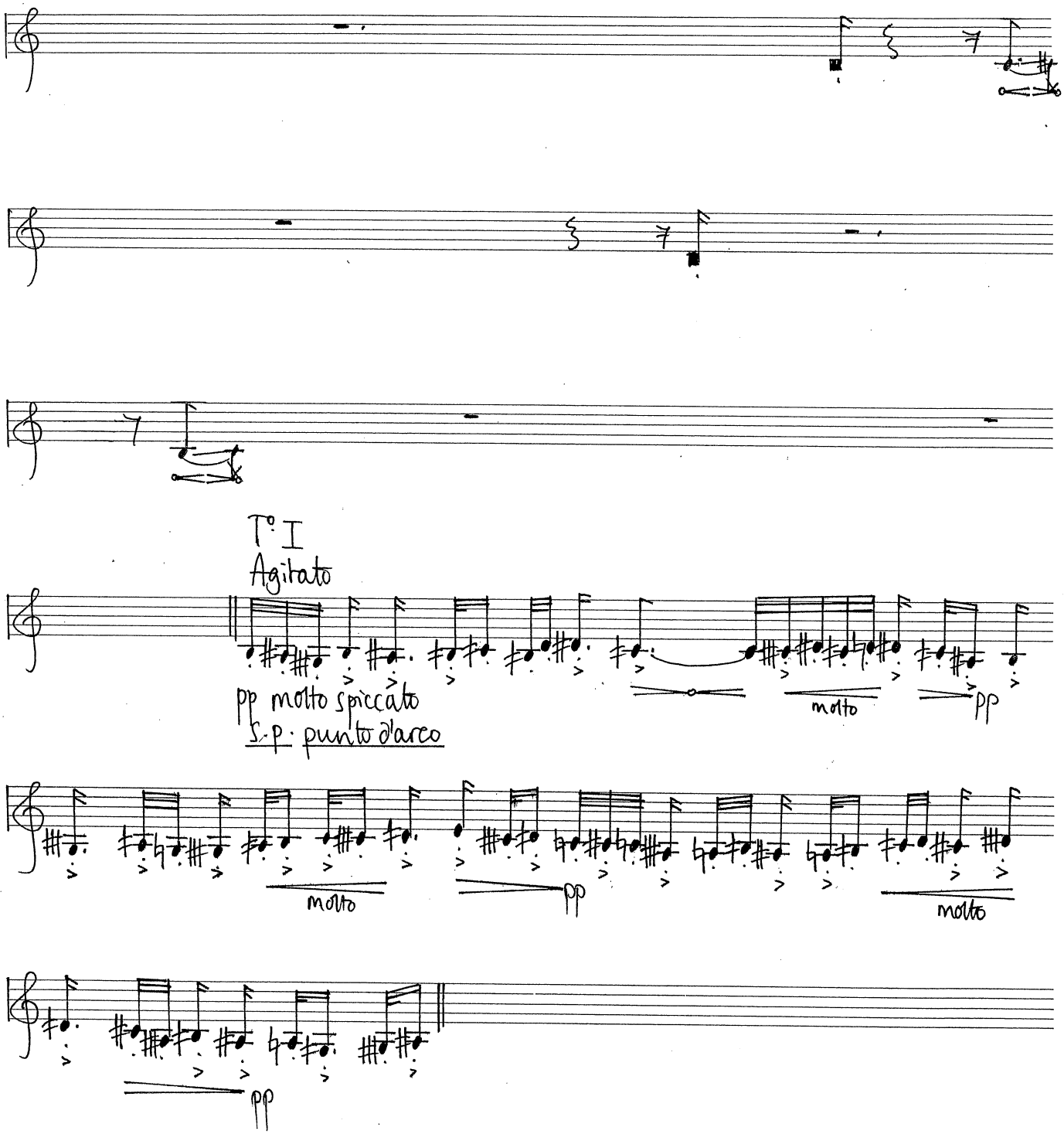

ff
pp
ff
pp
sfz
ff sub.
pp
fff
nat. sub.
tear into string
ff
separate bows
fff
Brillante e
leggiero sub.
ff
fff
ff
fff
ff


T. II
sempremf


(⊓→)
(⊓→)
T° I
sfz
ff
Separate bars
tear into string
5
fff
5
T° II legato
(lower note gliss.)


'pp' sub
sempre legato
poco
sf
poco
poco
poco
poco


poco
poco
pp come sopra


T° I
Agitato
pp molto spiccato
S.P. punto d'arco
molto
pp
molto
pp
molto
pp